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CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 are cancelled without prejudice.

6. (Original) A method of communicating data over a communications link comprising shortening a blanking period in the data to accommodate auxiliary data.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 6, comprising modifying at least one HSYNC signal in the data to accommodate said auxiliary data.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said auxiliary data is audio data.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said communications link is a digital communications link.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 6, comprising modifying a VSYNC signal in all frames in which the auxiliary data is to be transmitted.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 10, further comprising inserting a notch in all said VSYNC signals.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein inserting said notch includes inserting an 8 clock cycle pulse into said VSYNC signals.

13. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, further wherein said notch is inserted into said [VYNSNC] VSYNC signals 8 clock pulses after a first edge of said VSYNC signals.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising adapting at least one control signal to be compliant with a content protection standard.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein said at least one control signal is adapted to be compliant with said content protection standard while transmitting said auxiliary data.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein said control signal is ctl3.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein said content protection standard comprises a High-bandwidth Digital Content Protection standard.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein adapting said control signal comprises generating a ctl3 input using at least one VSYNC signal.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising ensuring that the ctl3 input is a positive going pulse.

20. (Amended) A system for communicating data and auxiliary data over a video communications link, comprising:

a reformatter [adapted to shorten] for shortening a blanking period in the data to accommodate auxiliary data, forming at least one frame; and

a transmitter for communicating with said reformatter and [adapted to] transmitting said at least one frame over the communications link.